



**COMMUNITIES
FOR CLEAN PORTS**

Testimony of Rupal Patel, Communities for Clean Ports
On “Proposed Early Actions to Mitigate Climate Change in California”
To the California Air Resources Board, 21 June 2007, Los Angeles, California

My name is Rupal Patel, and I represent Communities for Clean Ports, a non-profit public education campaign based in Los Angeles.

As outlined in the Air Resources Board’s “Emission Reductions Plan for Ports and Goods Movement,” pollution from port-related industry is responsible for a host of costly ills in California: 2,400 annual premature deaths, 75% of all diesel particulate matter (PM), 30% of ozone precursors (like oxides of nitrogen; or NOx), and billions in health costs. Goods movement is a profitable industry – a \$300-billion-per-year business at the Los Angeles-area ports alone – and viable, cost-effective clean technologies and alternative fuels exist today to clean up the industry. So Communities for Clean Ports advocates for the strongest, most aggressive regulatory measures and industry practices to end port pollution poisoning throughout the state.

Therefore, ARB’s “early action measures” for AB 32, the state’s landmark Global Warming Solutions Act, should be much more comprehensive than have been proposed. This is an urgent public health crisis. And as ARB acknowledges in its “Proposed Early Actions to Mitigate Climate Change in California” document, there is significant overlap between reduction of criteria pollutants and greenhouse gases – and AB32 includes specific statutory requirements to that effect.

So the Board, the state’s lead air quality agency, must not put aside emission reduction strategies for another day – as this proposal does by relegating so many important and viable measures to Groups 2 and 3, which seem to be the “to be determined later” section of this proposal. ARB certainly has the resources and expertise to adopt more than the three measures outlined in this proposal.

To that end, I’d like to submit to you a petition, signed by nearly 5,000 Californians, urging the Air Resources Board to include tough pollution reduction measures on the goods movement industry in its AB32 Early Action Measures.





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The petition reads, in part:

"I urge you to reverse your decision to leave goods movement pollution reduction strategies out of your Early Action Measures for addressing global warming. By limiting PM and NO_x pollution as part of your AB 32 Early Action Measures, the Air Resources Board can act aggressively to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gases. Specifically, I believe that CARB should include the following Early Action measures:

- Require the cleanest available Heavy-Duty Trucks. (Each truck should meet the EPA's highest clean air standards -- for oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and diesel particulate matter (DPM) -- at the time of purchase. Dirtier trucks should not be grouped with clean trucks, thereby allowing fleets to lower their average criteria pollutant emissions.)
- Require the cleanest available Cargo Handling Equipment (such as "yard tractors").
- Require large ocean going vessels to use cleaner shore-based electrical power ("cold ironing") when in port harbors (instead of burning dirty bunker fuel).

"As this state's chief air quality regulator, the Air Resources Board is responsible for protecting the health of the millions of California residents suffering from goods movement-related pollution -- and for upholding Governor Schwarzenegger's promise to fight global warming. So it is vital that you use all the resources at your disposal to aggressively limit deadly goods movement emissions -- especially since trade is projected to triple or quadruple over the next decade or so."

These measures are among those recommended to the Board by its Environmental Justice Advisory Committee for the Implementation of AB32. And I'd like to recognize the Committee for its efforts on these issues. They have crafted a much more comprehensive approach to early action measures than in the ARB staff's draft proposal, and they worked overtime to ensure that the ARB had them long before this Board meeting.

Californians depend on the Air Resources Board to uphold Governor Schwarzenegger's clean air and global warming promises. So on behalf of Communities for Clean Ports and the nearly 5,000 people who have signed this petition, I urge you to include aggressive regulations on goods movement in your "Early Action Measures" for AB32.

Thank you.

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